

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
DECCAN WEST VENKAT MANIAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Suresh and Jey Maniam of Arlington, Virginia, on the birth of their new baby boy. Deccan West Venkat Maniam was born on November 4, 2005 at 8:02 AM, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Decan has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING THE MESQUITE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Mesquite Rotary Club for their 46 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the Mesquite Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Mesquite Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth and worked with Rotary International to help eradicate polio. They have assisted the Mission East Dallas Charity Clinic as well as donating to a program that distributes wheelchairs all over the world. In addition, they have been very involved in local community projects, such as the Centennial Project, Annual Bike Ride and improving a new playground and making it accessible for children with special needs.

Through these initiatives, the Mesquite Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING LACKA-
WANNA COUNCILMAN RICARDO
ESTRADA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor retiring Lackawanna City Councilman Ricardo Estrada, who will on December 31, 2005, complete 8 years of service as a member of the Lackawanna City Council.

Ricky Estrada is a leader of significance in the city of Lackawanna and in his beloved first ward that he has served so well. Consistently re-elected by his constituents, Ricky Estrada has been a strong voice for an economically challenged community, and it is his leadership that will allow for the resurgence of Lackawanna's first ward in the years to come.

It would be hard for me, Mr. Speaker, to imagine a group of elected leaders who support our vision for the reform of the transportation infrastructure of Buffalo and Lackawanna's waterfront areas than the elected leaders of the city of Lackawanna. Leaders like Ricky Estrada have long recognized the need to offer greater public access to our region's waterfront, and his support and that of his colleagues has been outstanding and meaningful, and effective for the people he represents.

While my friend Councilman Estrada will be succeeded on the Lackawanna City Council by an effective community leader, it is unquestioned that his retirement will be a loss for the city council in general and for the city as a whole. It is my fervent hope that Ricky Estrada will remain an active member of our community, so that we may continue to work together toward the betterment of our region.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor Councilman Estrada, and his faithful service to the residents and taxpayers of the city of Lackawanna.

WITNESS FOR JUSTICE: UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD "Witness for Justice #223" entitled The Sons and Daughters . . . published on July 18, 2005, by the United Church of Christ of Cleveland, Ohio. The article eloquently written by Bernice Powell Jackson, the Executive Minister of this Church on 700 Prospect Avenue in Cleveland, addresses an issue that should be in the hearts and on the lips of every minister, rabbi and imam when he or she stands before a congregation.

The subject of The Sons and Daughters article was the difficulty the U.S. Army was having recruiting enough men and women to meet recruiting goals. At the time Minister Jackson wrote this article the Army was experiencing sufficient difficulty that they were raising the promise of higher sign-up bonuses, dropping standards and, as could be found, as she put it, circling "vulnerable young men and women like hawks flying over little chicks."

Minister Jackson did not question the patriotism of the young people failing to sign up with recruiters. She speculated the young people had gotten wiser. Perhaps she thought these men and women were looking at certain realities about the pre-emptive war they would fight if they enlisted. At the time of this article these young people had experienced 2 years "of watching a war which has so far resulted in nearly 1800 deaths and ten times that many injuries." Perhaps they were thinking how much life they had before them at the age of 18, 19, 20 or 21. Maybe they knew someone who had been burned beyond recognition or had lost both of his or her legs and faced a life time of disability at the age of 21.

Or, Minister Jackson thought, perhaps these young people had begun to detect the varying rationales and purposes stated by the Bush administration for why the United States was fighting in Iraq. The purpose of the War, according to the President, was to save our country from "imminent danger" from weapons of mass destruction that might come in the form of a "mushroom cloud." But 2 years on, there were no weapons of mass destruction and no imminent danger; so different reasons for the war were being substituted for the war in Iraq. We were fighting in Iraq to stop the terrorists. However, many were saying the American presence in Iraq was creating terrorists.

Of course, Minister Jackson speculated that these young people might not want to sign up for a war when the statements of the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, could not be relied upon for any certainty about when they would come home. Secretary Rumsfeld's statements about how long the United States would be in Iraq changed almost daily. Secretary Rumsfeld could not articulate a coherent plan for the war and neither could the President of the United States.

Young people, Minister Jackson speculated, might be frightened by the tactics used by recruiters to pressure young, vulnerable youths whose personnel information, including their names, social security numbers, race, ethnic background and telephone numbers the Defense Department received because one of the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act was being shared by the Defense Department with a sharing with a private contractor who sold goods and products to young men about the age of those being recruited.

The tactics of the Pentagon are enabled by the No Child Left Behind Act as currently written. Minister Jackson pointed out that parents have to opt out of the program to get the military to leave their child off the potential recruitment list. Some in Congress have tried to change this law so that the parents would have to opt in so their child would be on the recruitment list. Those attempts failed because they were voted down by the Republican hawks in Congress. Minister Jackson noted in a column by Bob Herbert of the New York Times the statement: "There are always plenty of hawks in America. But the hawks want their wars fought with other people's children."

Minister Jackson wrote "our young people are in danger." She advised all of us to write our President, Secretaries of Defense and Education, our Congressperson and Senators and let them know about these recruiters and these lists.

This statement by Minister Jackson goes to the heart of what is wrong with this war. The

entire burden is shared by a tiny percentage of citizens of this country. Not one tax cut has been repealed and absent a draft only those who are poor, underemployed or with no hope of a job or college are enlisting. The people of this country do not see the flag draped coffins at Dover Air Force Base. They do not see the young soldiers who have lost their sight and their limbs or who are in comas from head wounds or burned beyond recognition. They do not give up a job to sit by the bedside of a son who does not recognize them or at the bedside of a daughter who has lost her legs at the age of 24. They do not attend the funerals of a 20 year old or an 18 year old who is dead just out of high school.

For most people in this country there is no war. There were complaints of how veterans were treated when they returned from Vietnam. Think of how veterans returning from Iraq must feel when they realize no one in their country felt any impact of a war in which they lost so much.

HONORING EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week is American Education Week and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor all the men and women across the country who serve as Education Support Professional, ESP, in our Nation's public schools. Education Support Professionals are essential school employees who interact daily with students, staff and parents.

Public School drivers are essential school employees who interact with students, teachers, parents and the community every day. Bus drivers are the first and final link in the daily chain of events for every student in a school district.

Standards of performance for bus drivers in a given day will include but not be limited to: checking all safety and communications equipment on the bus at the beginning and end of each day, protect children from unsanitary conditions, returning lost and found student personal property, manage emergency situations, handle and stabilize student behavior which may put them and other students or staff at risk.

Take a moment to appreciate and recognize this fine group of Americans who are dedicated, loyal and committed to our future and the educational enhancement of all public school students.

PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF ROSA PARKS IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Rosa Lee Parks, whose refusal to give up

her bus seat to a white man sparked the modern civil rights movement. She was 92 at the time of her death.

In tribute to Mrs. Parks, I would like to submit the following excerpt from the Washington Post Article, "Bus Ride Shook a Nation's Conscience," written by Patricia Sullivan on Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

"Rosa was a true giant of the civil rights movement," said U.S. Representative JOHN CONYERS Jr. (D-Mich.), in whose office Parks worked for more than 20 years. "There are very few people who can say their actions and conduct changed the face of the nation, and Rosa Parks is one of those individuals."

Parks said that she didn't fully realize what she was starting when she decided not to move on that December 1, 1955, evening in Montgomery, AL. It was a simple refusal, but her arrest and the resulting protests began the complex cultural struggle to legally guarantee equal rights to Americans of all races.

Within days, her arrest sparked a 380-day bus boycott, which led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that desegregated her city's public transportation. Her arrest also triggered mass demonstrations, made the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. famous, and transformed schools, workplaces and housing.

Here was "an individual expression of a timeless longing for human dignity and freedom," King said in his book "Stride Toward Freedom."

"She was planted there by her personal sense of dignity and self-respect. She was anchored to that seat by the accumulated indignities of days gone and the boundless aspirations of generations yet unborn."

She was the perfect test-case plaintiff, a fact that activists realized only after she had been arrested. Hardworking, polite and morally upright, Parks had long seethed over the everyday indignities of segregation, from the menial rules of bus seating and store entrances to the mortal societal endorsement of lynching and imprisonment.

She was an activist already, secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP. A member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church all her life, Parks admired the self-help philosophy of Booker T. Washington—to a point. But even as a child, she thought accommodating segregation was the wrong philosophy. She knew that in the previous year, two other women had been arrested for the same offense, but neither was deemed right to handle the role that was sure to become one of the most controversial of the century.

But it was as if Parks was born to the role. Rosa McCauley was born February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, AL, the home of Booker T. Washington's renowned Tuskegee Institute, which drew many African American intelligentsia. She was the daughter of a carpenter and a teacher, was small for her age, had poor health and suffered chronic tonsillitis. Still a child when her parents separated, she moved with her mother to Pine Level, AL., and grew up in an extended family that included her maternal grandparents.

Her mother taught Parks at home until she was 11, when she was enrolled in the Industrial School for Girls in Montgomery, where her aunt lived. Segregation was enforced, often violently. As an adult, she recalled watching her grandfather guard the front door with a shotgun as the Ku Klux Klan paraded down their road. Her younger brother, Sylvester, a

decorated war hero in World War II, returned to a South that regarded uniformed veterans of color as "uppity" and demonstrated its disdain with beatings.

She married barber Raymond Parks in 1932 at her mother's house. They shared a passion for civil rights; her husband was an early defender of the Scottsboro Boys, a group of young African Americans whom rights advocates asserted were falsely accused of raping two white women.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in commending Mrs. Rosa Lee Parks for her outstanding and historical contributions to the State of Alabama, the State of Michigan, the Civil Rights Movement, and national politics.

HONORING THE GARLAND ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, IL, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Garland Rotary Club for their 78 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Garland Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Garland Rotary Club has been a strong supporter of the Garland Independent School District, GISD. Their annual Christmas and the Spring Casino Parties benefit underprivileged children and support student scholarships. This year, they have provided over \$3,000 for GISD college scholarships. The Garland Rotary Club also supports local charities such as the New Beginnings Center, Achievement Center of Texas, and the Garland Habitat for Humanity.

Through these initiatives, the Garland Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE AN ADEQUATE STOCKPILE OF ANTI-AVIAN FLU DRUGS

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the United States has a sufficient supply of drugs to combat avian flu in the event of a pandemic. My